(g) to ensure conduct of mining operations with due regard to safety and health of all ctncerned. National Mineral Policy 1993 was laid on the Table of the House on 5th March, 1993.

Minerals available in Tamil Nadu

2945. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the minerals, fuel, metallic and non-metallic, available in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) the action taken or proposed to be taken to utilise those deposits in a proper way and earn more income by converting those deposits into value added products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Extraction of wolframite ore in West Bengal

2946. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wolframite, the ore of mineral Tungsten, is available in large quantity in the Chandapathar region of Bankura District in the State of West Bengal:

(b) whether it is also a fact that a systematic mapping of the area was carried out by Geological Survey of India during sixties;

(c) whether government are aware of the fact that valuable ore is being illegally mined continuously by unscrupulous traders and if so, what action is being taken by Government to check this;

(d) whether experts from Hindustan Zinc Corporation recently visited the area;

(e) if so, the recommendations made by them; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to explore the extraction of wolframite ores on commercial basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Preliminary investigations of the Geological Survey of India (GSI) in Chandapathar area of Bankura district (West Bengal) have indicated the presence of wolframite in quartz veins along several shear zones in the area.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No such incidents have been reported by the State Government of West Bengal.

(d) to (f) Geologists from Hindustan Zinc Ltd. visited the area in April, 1992 and have found the grade of the ore to be very low and its exploitation economically unviable.

मध्य प्रदेश में लंबित खनन परियोजनाएं

2947. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव :** क्या खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या मध्य प्रदेश में कुछ खनन परियोजनाएं कार्यान्वयन हेतु लम्बित हैं जिसके कारण इन परियोजनाओं की लागत में वृद्धि हुई है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इन परियोजनाओं के नाम क्या-क्या हैं और उनके कार्यान्वयन में विलम्ब के क्या कारण हैं ;

(ग) क्या सरकार इन परियोजनाओं के शीघ्र कार्यान्वयन हेतु कोई कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ङ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

खान मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री बलराम सिंह यादव) : (क) मध्य प्रदेश में खान मंत्रालय के प्रशासनिक नियंत्रण मे सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों की कोई भी खनन परियोजना कार्यान्वयन के लिये लम्बित नहीं है । इसलिए परियोजना पर अधिक लागत का प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता ।

(ख) से (ङ) प्रश्न नही उठता ।

Tussle over simulator project

2948. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the 'Financial Express' of the 21st October, 1994 under the caption 'Sail Tisco tussle over simulator project';

(b) if so, the current status of its installation;

(c) the details of the casting simulator cum pilot plant together with the state of technology, country of import, capacity, purpose of installation, specific benefits to the Plant at which it is proposed to be installed or already installed, and the general benefits to the Steel Plants;

(d) whether the benefits will also accrue to the private sector Steel Plants;

(e) which are the mini steel plants selected for the assistance and what were the criteria and modalities for selection; and

(f) what are the details of the amount of Rupees 100 crore lying with scrapped Steel Development Fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) In view of the importance of continuous casting technology for steel industry in India, the need for a "Pilot Plant cum-simulator for continuous casting" has been under study for quite sometime. The Science Advisory Committee attached to Ministry of Steel had examined the proposal received from Technology Information Forecasting & Assessment Council (TIFAC) and on the recommendations of the Science Advisory Committee attached to the Ministry of Steel, a Committee of Experts has been constituted by the Ministry of Steel in January 1995 to examine the pilot plant projects proposed in the light of related advantages to the Steel Industry. The report of this Committee is expected shortly. The proposed pilot plant will be useful to steel industry towards technology development efforts in the area of continuous casting. The benefits will be mainly in the form of improved process optimisation which could lead to higher productivity, energy savings as well as development of different grades of steel through continuous casting. It is envisaged that the benefits for such a pilot plant would accrue to the steel industry in general both for the public and the private sector. The other details including location are being examined by the Expert Committee.

(e) No mini Steel plant has yet been selected for assistance. The Science Advisory Committee attached to Ministry of Steel has approved the proposal presented by Metallurgical & Engg. Consultants (India) Limited, on behalf of Technology Information Forecasting & Assessment Council (TIFAC) for taking up a study on "Energy Efficiency Improvement in Secondary Steel Sector". The study envisaged, among other items identification of around 15 mini steel plants